

LXXI.—On a new Mongoose from Matabeleland, British South Africa. By W. E. DE WINTON.

IN a collection of mammals lately presented to the British Museum by Mr. F. C. Selous, taken on his property Essex Vale, near Bulawayo, there is the skull of a hitherto undescribed form of *Cynictis*; the skin, unfortunately, was not obtained. I propose to name it, in honour of the collector,

Cynictis Selousi, sp. n.

Skull more elongated than *C. penicillata*, with the squamosal portion of the zygoma not so much expanded laterally; this process is only very slightly bowed upwards to join the malar, so that, viewed from the side, the lower edge of the zygomatic arch forms a straight line to the base of the infra-orbital foramen. The ascending process of the malar is very slight, running into a fine point, and barely meeting the post-orbital process. The back of the palate ends in a projecting point in the middle line; the pterygoid processes bow inwards, ending in small knobs. The auditory bullæ are considerably inflated, the posterior basal portion drooping below the plane of the anterior chamber.

Type in Brit. Mus. Collector's note:—"Skull of animal, probably killed and eaten by an eagle, found on grassy heap under a tree, Essex Vale, Matabeleland, 18th Oct., 1895" (*F. C. S.*).

In all measurements I follow Mr. Thomas in his monograph of the group (*P. Z. S.* 1882, p. 59).

Skull: basal length 76 millim.; greatest breadth 43; nasals, length in middle line 16, greatest breadth 8; inter-orbital breadth 18.5; intertemporal breadth 16.5; palate length 44, to cross-line 26.5; basicranial axis 26; basifacial axis 49; facial index 188.

Breadth outside postero-external angle of $\frac{p.4}{p.4}$ 25.

Teeth: $\frac{p.2}{p.2}$, horizontal length 4.1; $\frac{p.3}{p.3}$, length 4.5; $\frac{p.4}{p.4}$, external length 6.1, anterior breadth 5.5, greatest diameter 8.5; $\frac{m.1}{m.1}$, length 4.5, breadth 7.5; $\frac{m.2}{m.2}$, length 3.5, breadth 6; $\frac{p.3}{p.3}$, length 4.1; $\frac{p.4}{p.4}$, 6; $\frac{m.1}{m.1}$, 6; $\frac{m.2}{m.2}$, 5.5.

This is the skull of an adult animal with the teeth somewhat worn, the sutures of the nasal bones not perfectly closed. The size alone will distinguish it from the well-known form, and in shape the skulls are strikingly different, the new species having a narrower and more evenly oval skull than *C. penicillata*, viz. with the zygoma much less expanded in proportion to the face and brain-case. The breadth of the skull will be seen to barely equal the length of the palate, while in *C. penicillata* this measurement exceeds the length of the palate by about 5 millim. at all ages.